

THE
Rural District Council
OF
KING'S NORTON.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF
THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

For the Year ending December, 1897.

BY
FRANCIS HOLLINSHEAD, M.D.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND
PAST-PRESIDENT OF THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH
OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

Printed by Order of the District Council.

PRINTED BY J. F. EBORALL & Co., 78-81, PARADE, BIRMINGHAM.
—
1898.

THE
Rural District Council
OF
KING'S NORTON

IN THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER,
COMPRISING THE PARISHES OF
BEOLEY, KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD.

MR. THOMAS ABRAHAM BAYLISS, CHAIRMAN.

MR. THOMAS HADLEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Rural District Councillors:

Beoley Parish.

Mr. Thomas Edward Field, Church Road, Redditch.

King's Norton Parish.

KING'S NORTON WARD.

Mr. Thomas Abraham Bayliss, Thirlmere, Wheeley's Road, Edgbaston.

Mr. Aaron Jones, Glenhurst, King's Norton.

STIRCHLEY WARD.

Mr. George Talliss, Bournville, Stirchley.

MOSELEY WARD.

Mr. James Botteley, Westcourt, Park Hill, Moseley.

Mr. James William Bray Brown, Glenavon, Forest Road, Moseley.

Mr. Thomas Hadley, Holly Bank Farm, Moseley.

KING'S HEATH WARD.

Mr. Edward Holmes, School Road, Moseley.

Mr. Middleton Smith Posnette, West Heath Road, King's Norton

Northfield Parish.

NORTHFIELD WARD.

Mr. Thomas Richard Bayliss, C.C., Belmont, Northfield.

SEELY OAK WARD.

The late Mr Joseph Smith, Abingdon, Prospect Road Moseley.

Mr Thomas Thompson, Selly Oak.

Clerk:

MR. EDWIN DOCKER.

Medical Officer:

FRANCIS HOLLINSHEAD, M.D.

Surveyor:

MR. AMBROSE W. CROSS, C.E.

Assistant Surveyor:

MR. J. H. WEBB.

Sanitary Inspectors:

MR. JOHN HOUGHTON, C.S.I.G.B.,
Moseley.

MR. A. T. COTTLE, A.S.I.,
Selly Oak.

Meetings fourth Wednesday in every month, at 2-30 p.m., at the
Union Buildings, Selly Oak, near Birmingham.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b295333867>

WESTON COTTAGE,

SELLY OAK,

NEAR BIRMINGHAM,

January 30th, 1898.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KING'S NORTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you, as a District Council, my Fourth Annual Report for the past year, 1897, being my Twenty-fifth as Medical Officer of Health.

I propose adopting my usual course of giving you the vital statistics for the year, and from these, afterwards build up the Report based upon the deductions arising therefrom.

From the returns furnished weekly to me by your Registrar I find that the total number of

BIRTHS

registered during the year, as occurring in your district, was 1149, and the total number of

DEATHS

for the same period was 643, inclusive of 155 deaths which occurred in

Public Institutions, 123 of which did not belong to your district, viz:— Workhouse, 70; Rubery Hill Asylum, 49; St Paul's Convent, 1; Moseley Hall Convalescent Home, 2; the Fever Hospital, 1. The total number of deaths which occurred in the Workhouse was 102, as compared with 81 for last year, the deaths in the Fever Hospital was 9, as compared with 4, one of the deaths being an outside case and came in from Alvechurch; all the deaths in the Hospital were due to Scarlet Fever and its complications. The deaths in Rubery Hill Asylum, St. Paul's Convent, and the Moseley Hall Convalescent Home, were not connected with your district at all, and these are excluded in my calculations of the various rates, as they do not form a true record of the vital statistics of a district. I, however, give the mortality rates inclusive of these deaths so that you may be able to note the comparison.

Of the births, 610 are males, 526 females; of the deaths, 343 are males, 300 females. From diseases of the zymotic class, 64 deaths have occurred, 2 of these did not belong to your district, viz: 1 death from Scarlet Fever and 1 from Measles, one occurring at the Fever Hospital the other at the Workhouse.

From the foregoing figures, with a population of 42,700, which is estimated to the middle of the year 1897, and this estimate is rather less than more than the actual figures, and this calculation is based on the census of 1891, represents a birth-rate for the year of 27·07 per 1000 persons living, and a death-rate of 12·1 per 1000 of the population, and a zymotic death-rate of 1·4 per 1000, as compared with a birth-rate of 27·04 per 1,000 and a death-rate of 11·51 per 1000, and a zymotic death-rate of 1·1 per 1000 for the year 1896, and 29·59 birth-rate, and 12·27 death-rate, and 0·8 zymotic rate for the year 1895.

The death-rates are exclusive of the deaths in Public Institutions, which did not belong to your district, inclusive of these, the death-rate is raised to 15·05 as against 14·19 for 1896.

From the foregoing figures you will observe that the rates are pretty uniform each year; we are, however, slightly higher this year, but it only amounts to a few decimal points, and as the death rates are very low for a district like yours, you may take it that the vital statistics for the year 1897 are very satisfactory.

The following figures show the birth and death-rates, and also the zymotic death-rates of the neighbouring Authorities for the past year, 1897, in order that you may make a comparison as regards your own district.

	Rural District Council of King's Norton.	Erding- ton District	Aston Manor.	Solihull Sanitary Authority	Birming- ham.	Hands- worth Urban.
Birth-rate	26.9	23.67	32.8	25.8	32.2	24.4
Death-rate	12.1	12.15	17.0	12.1	21.1	12.1
Zymotic Death-rate ..	1.4	3.0	4.8	1.24	3.8	1.9

The above figures show a favourable comparison with other Authorities

The following Table represents the births and deaths, and also the respective birth and death-rates, together with the zymotic death-rate for the four quarters of the year.

	Births.	Deaths.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.
First Quarter ...	242	157	22.67	14.70	1.21
Second Quarter	258	149	24.16	13.95	0.65
Third Quarter..	307	173	28.81	16.20	2.43
Fourth Quarter	342	164	32.03	15.36	1.50

The vital statistics of the above Table are inclusive of the deaths in Public Institutions not belonging to your district.

The total deaths at the different ætal periods is summarised below.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.
Under 1 year ...	106	64	170
From 1 to 5 years ...	24	34	58
" 5 " 15 " ...	17	12	29
" 15 " 25 " ...	13	12	25
" 25 " 35 " ...	12	21	33
" 35 " 45 " ...	31	21	52
" 45 " 55 " ...	26	21	47
" 55 " 65 " ...	39	23	62
" 65 " 75 " ...	44	45	89
" 75 " 85 " ...	26	42	68
" 85 and upwards ...	5	5	10
Totals ...	343	300	643

These figures are set out minutely in Table III. of this Report.

As regards the birth-rate, no doubt this is influenced to a very large extent by the prosperous state of trade or otherwise, as in times of greater prosperity the marriage-rate is found to be increased. As regards your district this year the marriages are 237, as against 259 for last year.

The following Table gives the birth-rates and death-rates, together with the zymotic death-rate for the past 10 years.

	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Birth-rate ...	25·18	24·34	23·13	25·97	30·70	27·90	25·34	29·59	27·04	26·9
Death-rate ...	10·23	10·61	12·01	12·36	12·52	15·35	10·87	12·27	11·51	12·1
Zymotic death-rate ...	0·55	0·7	0·73	0·77	0·7	1·03	0·6	0·8	1·1	1·4

The above comparisons of the death-rates for the past 10 years will be found most satisfactory and will compare most favourably with other districts, as will be seen on reference to a Table further on.

As regards the zymotic death-rate, while being slightly higher than last year it continues very low indeed, as will be seen on comparison with the figures of other Authorities. This fact is the more satisfactory on account of the great increase in the population of your district and also the greater density of the population, which naturally renders us more liable to diseases of this class, and, as a rule, with a more severe type of the malady.

The above figures show an increase in the number of deaths for this year of 102, the totals being 541 for 1896 and 643 for 1897; there is also an increase in the zymotic class. The deaths of children under one year are not so favourable, while the deaths of children from one to five years show a slight increase, and the figures representing the deaths of persons dying over eighty-five years are more than last year. The births are more than last year, being 1149, as compared with 1031 for 1896.

The following Table gives the percentages of the different mortality rates among children under one and five years—their relationship to the total births and the general mortality rate.

Annual Rate of Mortality.	Deaths of children under 1 year Percentage to total deaths.	Percentage of deaths of children under 1 year to the Registered Births.	Deaths of children under five years. Percentage to total deaths.
12·17	26·43	14·79	35·45

These death-rates will be found to compare favourably with last year, and this on the face of an increased population.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the past year 65 deaths from this class of Disease, against 44, have been registered, as follows :—Small Pox, 0 ; Scarlet Fever, 11 ; Diphtheria, 12 ; Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Measles, 12 ; Whooping Cough, 13 ; Diarrhoea, &c., 16 ; as compared with last year, as follows :—Small Pox, 0 ; Scarlet Fever, 5 ; Diphtheria, 16 ; Typhoid Fever, 3 ; Measles, 7 ; Whooping Cough, 13 ; Diarrhoea, 0.

The following Table shows the details of the Deaths, the Months in which they occurred, and the Localities.

Nature of Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	2	...	11
Diphtheria ...	3	1	...	1	...	...	4	...	1	2	...	...	12
Measles ..	1	...	...	1	...	1	..	1	1	3	2	2	12
Whooping Cough ...	3	...	1	4	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	13
Typhoid Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea & Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	4	...	2	...	16
Total for Months.	9	2	2	6	1	1	6	13	10	6	6	3	65

Two of the deaths in this Table belonged to other districts, viz. : 1 case of Scarlet Fever and 1 Measles.

Localities in which the above Deaths took place :—

	Selly Oak	King's Heath	Moseley	King's Norton	Stirchley Street	Northfield	The Workhouse	Fever Hospital	Cotteridge	Rednal	Bournbrook	Selly Park	TOTALS.
Small Pox	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...
Scarlet Fever...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	9	..	...	...	...	11
Diphtheria	1	...	2	2	...	3	...	...	1	1	2	...	12
Measles	2	2	...	1	5	...	2	...	..	...	...	...	12
Whooping Cough ...	...	2	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	13
Typhoid Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa & Dysentery	2	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	16
TOTALS	6	8	5	5	9	5	2	9	1	1	12	2	65

We have to record, as the Table will show, an increase in the number of deaths from this class of diseases. The number being 65, as compared with 44 for the year 1896, an increase of 21 ; this augmentation is not an excessive element when we consider the continual and large increase of the population of your district.

On analysis of the figures you will see that the deaths from Diarrhœa, viz., 16, as compared with none for the year preceeding, will readily explain it. In addition to this a larger number of deaths from Measles is recorded and a slight increase in the deaths from Scarlet Fever I am glad, however, to record a decrease in the number of deaths from Diphtheria. Whooping Cough still maintains the same figures as last year.

As regards the distribution of these deaths, I find Selly Oak and Bournbrook are credited with 18, King's Norton 5, King's Heath 8, Moseley 5, Stirchley St. 9, Northfield 5, The Cotteridge 1, Rednal 1, Selly Park 2, the Workhouse 2, the Fever Hospital 9. The deaths in the Workhouse arose from Measles, those in the Fever Hospital from Scarlet Fever.

In my last Report I made special mention that no death from Diarrhœa occurred, this year we record 16, of which mention will be made under this head.

Having sketched out broadly the deaths in the zymotic class, I now propose, as in former years, to give the details of each disease as it occurred in your district, and these will be taken in the usual order of their importance.

SMALL POX.

I am again very pleased to state that we have during the year kept quite free from this disease. This is again a very gratifying fact to record, moreover so, when I remind you that last year also we kept free from this disease.

In reference to this malady, I have before me the record of cases of vaccination, supplied by Mr. A. E. Fletcher, which shows that a larger number of children have been vaccinated than in the previous year, which, to my mind is very satisfactory when we bear in mind the strong opposition which is brought to bear against the operation being performed. I am sorry to see, however, a large number of cases still outstanding.

In my last Report I laid great stress on this subject, bearing reference chiefly to the practice (which is only too common) of the public endeavouring to have their children vaccinated as little as possible, viz., to have as few marks put on the child's arm as possible, and I am afraid there is a growing tendency to encourage this practice. There is moreover a big demand for vaccination with Calf-Lymph on the supposition that it is safer. As regards the former desire, no one can deny that it is but a mother's natural desire to save her child from as much pain and inconvenience as possible; with this feeling everyone can fully sympathise, but we must not consider a feeling of sentiment when we are performing an act which is intended for the future safety of the child throughout its life, and to save it from one of the most dreaded diseases which human flesh is heir to. It is now, and has been for many years, proved that vaccination is the only safeguard against this disease, and that to be efficacious it must be done properly and efficiently to be of proper value. I may add that the severity of cases of Small Pox has been conclusively proved to be in proportion to the protective influence of vaccination by the number of marks visible on the arm. I know full well that I shall not please those who differ from me by these remarks, but while I am connected with the Public Health Service, (and having on this matter a very strong opinion which is based on a long and unique experience) I feel I should be neglecting my duty were I not to state these facts in my Annual Report.

As regards the use of Calf-Lymph, I see no reason why it should not come into more general use, provided we can be assured of its uniformity of strength and activity, but I am bound to say its use in my hands has not been so satisfactory as I could wish, as many instances occur of its failure to produce the required results, and I am afraid, if this Lymph comes into general use, we shall have very imperfect protection from Small Pox as the result; many instances occur where the results are only partly what they ought to be. The Lymph being a preparation, it loses its activity very quickly. I am convinced from very long experience that arm to arm vaccination is far preferable to any other mode, and so long as healthy children with healthy vaccine vesicles are selected, I am quite sure no harm can arise, providing also that the children's arms are well cared for during the process of recovery from the vaccination.

In the remarks I have made on this subject, I am not speaking from theory, but from actual practice extending over a quarter of a century.

I append the Vaccination Officers return for your information and guidance.

VACCINATION RETURNS

for that part of the Union forming the District Council of King's Norton.

Districts.	Num- ber Born.	Success- fully Vaccin- ated.	In- suscept- ible to Vac- cination	Had Small Pox.	Dead Un- vaccin- ated.	Post- poned by Med- ical Cer- tificate.	Removed where V.O apprised.	Re- moved. Not Known	Out stand- ing.
King's Nort'n } Beoley and } Northfield }	1091	807	1	...	108	12	4	56	103

ALBERT E. FLETCHER,

220, BEARWOOD ROAD,

SMETHWICK

25th February, 1898.

Vaccination Officer.

King's Norton Union.

In further reference to this subject, a case of death occurred at Beoley which was attributed to vaccination, and also three other children were stated to be afflicted with a skin disease due to the same cause. I thoroughly investigated these cases and made a report to you on the subject, I also gave the particulars of my enquiry to Dr. Wheaton, Vaccination Inspector of the Local Government Board. In my report I stated that vaccination

could not have caused the death of the child as the child died from certified Whooping Cough and Pneumonia five weeks after the vaccination. Two other children had a little Excematous rash on them, while the other one was perfectly clear and never had the slightest symptom of any kind, these children went on perfectly well. I examined the child from whom the Lymph was taken to vaccinate these children and found it perfectly healthy and the mother never had any trouble with the arm at all and, moreover, there was no evidence of Ulceration of the Cicatrices. I further found that two other children had been vaccinated from one of these four children and the arms did perfectly well. I mention these facts connected with this case in consequence of the statements made at the time by the opponents of Vaccination.

SCARLET FEVER

Has caused 11 deaths during the year, as compared with 5 for 1896. Of these, 9 occurred in your Fever Hospital, 1 at Selly Oak, and 1 at Moseley.

As regards the number of cases notified to me I have to record 312, as compared with 306 for the previous year, from the following localities :— Selly Oak, 104 ; Selly Park, 8 ; Tenacres, 9 ; California, 3 ; Bartley Green, 1 ; Moor St., 1 ; Northfield, 21, for the Parish of Northfield ; Moseley, 30 ; King's Heath, 46 ; Stirchley St., 39 ; King's Norton, 29 ; The Cotteridge, 7 ; West Heath, 1 ; Rednal, 1 ; Holly Wood, 1 ; The May Pole, 1, for the Parish of King's Norton ; and Beoley, 3, for the Parish of Beoley ; and Moseley Hall Convalescent Home, 1, and the Workhouse, 2, as representing the Public Institutions of the district.

The number of deaths this year is larger than the previous one, but against this we have had a larger number of cases, more particularly so, as more than 20 cases have been treated from districts outside your own. The disease has been prevalent more or less throughout the year, but more so during the months of July, August, and September. We have not had it in an epidemic form as the cases have been removed to your Hospital as fast as they arose, or no doubt we should have had to record a much larger number, and probably the disease would have assumed that form.

As regards the increase in the number of deaths, I may mention that the type of the malady was much more severe than last year, so that on the whole we may consider that the rate of mortality was as favourable as we could expect.

The distribution of the cases was to a large extent confined to the more populous localities in your district, as follows :—Selly Oak, Moseley, King's Heath, Stirchley St., King's Norton, and Northfield, only 3 cases occurring in Public Institutions.

Of the 312 cases notified, 284 were admitted to your infectious Hospital, with a mortality, as I have stated, of nine, as compared with 306 cases notified, with 276 admitted, and a mortality of four in 1896. Of the 28 cases treated at home we have a mortality of two, a very striking illustration of the value of Hospital treatment over that which is obtained at their own homes. This will be manifest to you on the perusal of the figures below —

The percentage of deaths in cases treated in the Hospital is 3·3, while for those treated at their own homes it is 7·1. The percentage rate for 1896 was 1·44, for 1895 it was 3·1, so that on the whole we have a very favourable record.

In reference to this disease, it is very satisfactory to again note so large a proportion of cases which have availed themselves of the advantages of your Hospital, and further, to observe the good results which follow, as compared with the treatment at home. Before the advent of Hospital Treatment the number of cases were much larger in proportion to the population, and the mortality much higher.

Scarlet Fever is the disease which concerns, more largely than any other, all Sanitary Authorities, and the one for which more provision is made and attention given. It is a disease which is always with us, and of late years in particular it has been most prevalent all over the country, and it is a fact, that where no provision is made for the Isolation of the cases, it spreads to an alarming extent, and notable examples of this are to be seen in our immediate neighbourhood. When a case breaks out in a house, unless immediately Isolated, it invariably spreads to the other members of the household, but when at once removed it is a rare occurrence for any more cases to occur; so that in providing means of "Isolation" you no doubt save numbers of lives and prevent hundreds of cases of illness from this malady which would otherwise occur.

In connection with the treatment and isolation of this disease, difficulty is often felt in discharging the patients as return cases occasionally occur, presumably from the ones discharged. This matter has always considerably exercised my mind, and as far as possible I have endeavoured to cope

with it. I am, however, quite convinced that a "Sanatorium" for the County should be provided where patients could be discharged to for a fortnight before returning to their homes. By this means it would enable patients to get a further change of air and give further time to get free from the germs of the malady. It may be said that we ought to be able to do this at the Hospital: to this I would say, that so far as can be done, it is carried out; the patients are changed from one ward, viz., Acute to a Convalescent one, and from there discharged, and so far it works fairly well; but I desire to see something more than this, and I hope the time will not be far distant when I shall see my ideal plan realised.

As I stated in my last Report, this is a matter for the County, and when it has its full complement of Infectious Hospitals, we shall probably see a way to accomplish what I suggest.

In concluding this part of my subject I wish to say how much I appreciate what we now possess in this respect, which is a great advance for your district and is ahead of most Authorities of a like constitution, still I consider we shall require to go farther as time goes on.

DIPHTHERIA

Has caused 12 deaths, as compared with 16 for last year. As regards notifications, I have received 92, as compared with 59 for 1896. The localities of the cases notified are as follows:—Selly Oak, 47; Moseley, 18; Tenacres, 2; Stirchley St., 2; King's Heath, 8; King's Norton, 6; Northfield, 4; The Cotteridge, 1; West Heath, 1; California, 1; Moor St., 1; Beoley, 1.

As regards this disease, we have to record a larger number of cases notified, but I am pleased to say a less number of deaths. We are able also to record a diminution of the cases in localities previously attacked. as in Northfield for example. This year Selly Oak plays the most important part as regards this disease, Moseley coming next.

So far as this malady is concerned, we generally look for some insanitary condition to account for it, either at the house of the patient, or they may have come in contact with some such conditions away from home, or have contracted it away and conveyed it by this means to others.

It is a disease like Scarlet Fever, which attacks children to a very large extent, and among them it is very fatal. So far as this class is concerned, I am quite satisfied that the disease is to a very large extent propagated through the medium of the Public Schools.

Throughout the country, for some time past, Diphtheria has been very prevalent and at times almost epidemic in various places. Our neighbouring City has had its full share for some time past, and I know the subject occupied the very serious attention of the City Authorities, and as a result a conference was held with a view of dealing with the question, with the result that a Bacteriological department was established at Mason College for the purpose of investigating cases submitted, and if required, supplying the new preparation "Antitoxin" for the treatment of the cases. So that we see this disease has received a good deal of thought and attention, from which it is to be hoped we may ultimately derive much advantage.

While recognising that insanitary conditions play so important a part in the causation of Diphtheria, we must not lose sight of the great advantages of treatment and, as far as possible, adopt means of prevention.

So far as my experience goes, I think there is a great deal to be said in favour of the new treatment, and there is no doubt that it has diminished the rate of mortality very considerably.

I may say in all cases where this disease occurs the premises are inspected and, where found, any sanitary defects are remedied, and as far as possible all precautions are taken to prevent its further spread.

TYPHOID FEVER

Has caused 1 death, as compared with 3 for last year. 15 cases have been notified, as compared with 6 for last year, and 8 for the year 1895. The death occurred at Selly Oak. The notified cases of sickness from this disease were distributed as follows: Selly Oak, 6; Moseley, 2; Selly Park, 1; Stirchley St., 1; King's Heath, 2; Northfield, 1; Moseley Convalescent Home, 1; Rubery Hill Asylum, 1. The cases were distributed throughout the year fairly uniformly, and at no time could there be said that it assumed anything more than an sporadic nature.

My investigations fully verified this, and it is satisfactory to note that we have not had to deal with it from any common cause or in an epidemic form.

While we record a larger number of cases notified this year over last, we have only 1 death as against 3. This is no doubt due to the milder nature of the disease.

MEASLES

Has caused 12 deaths, as compared with 7 for last year. So far as I can ascertain, about 285 cases have occurred during the year. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the figures as this disease is not notifiable in your district, but this is a very fair computation.

As regards this disease, the type of the malady has been worse than in previous years, with the result that the mortality has been greater.

This malady, which is a disease of children to a large extent, is one which causes considerable anxiety and uneasiness in consequence of the rapidity with which it spreads and the dangerous complications which often attend it.

As I have said previously it is not a notifiable disease, so far as your district is concerned, and so far as I am concerned I do not see much advantage in its being made so, unless we had some means of dealing with the cases as they arise, by Isolation. To have the cases notified would cause a considerable expense without any corresponding advantage.

I should be glad to see Measles dealt with more satisfactorily than we are now able to do by providing means of Isolation, but we must wait some time, I am afraid, before this can be accomplished. All we can do in this matter, at present, is to close the public schools as soon as there is an indication of the disease showing signs of rapid spread, and this I have had to do on several occasions during the year.

I am sorry the public generally attach so little importance to this disease. It is generally looked upon as a trivial ailment, and no notice need be taken of it beyond ordinary simple treatment, with no attempt at Isolation, and, of course among the artisan class, no more can be done as they are powerless to do more.

WHOOPING COUGH.

From this disease we have to record 13 deaths, as compared with the same number for last year.

This is not a notifiable disease and, like Measles, is treated very indifferently by the public generally.

The cause of death in this malady is usually due to diseases of the Respiratory organs supervening on the cough, and in many instances due, as I have said on previous occasions, to carelessness or ignorance and neglect,

by undue exposure of children in the early stages of the disease, thereby rendering them an easy prey to those serious complications which I have stated. We can only hope to lessen the number of deaths from this cause by gradually educating the public generally on the great importance of treating the complaint from a more important standpoint than they now do, and the necessity of dealing with the illness of their children at an early stage of the disease, and so avoid the dangerous complications so fatal to children.

DIARRHŒA.

For some years the mortality from this cause has been exceedingly small, not a single death occurred last year and only 2 for the year 1895. For the year 1897 we have to record 16 deaths, a very high mortality for your district, but very small as compared with other districts in our immediate neighbourhood, while our death-rate from this cause was only 0·37 per 1000, the death-rate for Birmingham rose as high as 21 per 1000.

You will remember that this disease was very prevalent more or less over the country during the months of July, August, and September, and in some localities the mortality was exceedingly high. The outbreak was no doubt due to the excessive heat with little rainfall at the period mentioned. At the time it was looked upon as somewhat alarming in its incidence and severity, and called for special reference to be made to it. Every effort was taken to minimise the number of cases, and every precaution, as far as possible, was taken to lessen the mortality from this cause.

The localities found to be mostly affected were the more densely populated parts, more particularly those of the artisan class, viz., Selly Oak, Bournbrook, King's Heath, Stirchley Street, and Tenacres. The deaths occurred, for the most part, among children under one year of age, and in these cases, no doubt, many of them were due to errors of diet, together with the absence of that delicate and proper care so necessary to young children. I do not wish to say this applies to all alike, but I am afraid it does to a large proportion.

CHOLERA

We have kept free from any cases of this dreaded disease. Many of the cases of Diarrhœa assumed the character of it in its English form, but were not true cases of the malady.

It is a disease somewhat unknown to us, but common to some parts of the globe. We do, however, occasionally have imported cases to deal with, but fortunately, we are able as a rule to cope with it and prevent the disease spreading.

INFLUENZA.

This disease has not again made its appearance in any very severe form, but since the first epidemic we have it more or less with us every winter. I am pleased to say, however, that the malady is of a much milder type, and so far as your district is concerned the mortality is very low, only 1 death having been recorded during the year.

COMPULSORY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year I have received 463 Notifications of Infectious Diseases, as compared with 412 for the previous year, and 226 for the year 1895. This return shows an increase, but not to any extent when we bear in mind the rapid increase in the growth of the district.

The Notification Act is well in force now, and, as far as your district is concerned, I think we have evidence of all the cases occurring.

As regards the figures in the different class of diseases we have to record as follows: Scarlet Fever, 312, as against 306; Diphtheria, 92, as against 59; Typhoid Fever, 15, as against 6; and Erysipelas, 41, as against 34; so that we see the chief increase centres in the cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Erysipelas, the Scarlet Fever showing only a very slight increase. The increase in the cases of Erysipelas need not be taken seriously into account, as many of the cases are of a very simple and benign character, and have very little bearing on the statistics in this class of diseases.

I am pleased to say that during the year we have not had to bring any case of neglect in this respect before you, and no prosecution has been instituted. In reference to this subject, I have to mention that cases occur of a doubtful nature, and notification has been delayed until the cases have been proved.

I may mention that cases of Scarlet Fever often present difficulties, either owing to the mildness of the attack or the complications of the symptoms of the disease. I have during the year conferred with the Medical Men of the district, from time to time, with a view of coming to a decision before removal to Hospital.

I am again pleased to say that I have had the hearty co-operation of the Medical Profession in regard to my duties in this respect, and this has enabled me to carry them out, in regard to these cases, as satisfactory as I could wish.

In further reference to this matter, a perusal of the Table on this head and also the Hospital Returns, will show you how satisfactorily the work in both respects has been carried out, more particularly as regards the number of cases notified and the number which have been admitted to your Hospital.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Selly Oak.	Moseley.	Selly Park.	Tenacres.	Stirchley Street.	King's Heath.	King's Norton.	Northfield.	Bartley Green.	Cotteridge.	Moseley Hall Convalescent Home	West Heath.	Rubery Asylum	Rednal.	B oley.	California.	Workhouse.	Holly Wood	Maypole.	Moor Street.	TOTALS.
Scarlet Fever ...	104	30	8	9	39	46	29	21	1	7	1	..	..	1	3	3	2	5	3	..	312
Diphtheria ...	47	18	..	2	2	8	6	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	92
Typhoid Fever ...	6	2	1	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Membranous Croup ...	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas ...	17	6	2	..	2	4	2	3	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Puerperal Fever ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Small Pox ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS ...	175	57	11	11	44	60	38	29	3	8	2	2	3	1	4	4	2	5	3	1	463

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PREVENTION ACT.

We have not found it necessary to take any special proceedings under this Act. While it gives us greater powers than hitherto respecting the cleansing and disinfection of houses, &c., I have not found any serious objections in this respect arise, and the necessary work has been carried out.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS.

Reports have been made to you every month, setting forth the vital statistics and other facts of importance occurring during the period, which have been duly considered by you and directions given thereon. The following is a summary of my reports :—

For the Month of January.—The Birth-rate was 28·18, Death-rate 17·14, Zymotic Death-rate 1·5. Notifications 31 : Scarlet Fever, 21 ; Diphtheria, 5 ; Typhoid Fever, 3 ; Erysipelas, 2. These

figures show a decline in the number of cases over last month. A special Report was made on the condition of the Northfield Sewers. I met your Surveyor, Mr. Cross, and your Assistant Surveyor, Mr. Webb, and we went over the district. After inspecting the Sewers. We went to the outfall to ascertain how the Sewage Farm for this part of your district was working. I recommended frequent flushing of the Sewers as there was a deposit of sewage matter in some portions of them. I also reported specially on a nuisance arising from the occupation of some gipsies who had taken up their residence in a field in Stirchley Street. I also brought up the question of the ventilation of sewers generally. Hospital report—17 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 27 were discharged cured, leaving 41 under treatment all going on well.

For the Month of February.—The Birth-rate was 33·08, Death-rate 15·34, Zymotic Death-rate, 1·0. Notifications 22 : Scarlet Fever, 14 ; Diphtheria, 5 ; Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Erysipelas, 2. The Scarlet Fever cases were distributed fairly uniformly throughout the district. The Diphtheria occurred at Moseley, Selly Oak, and King's Heath. Mention was made of the defective drainage at West Heath, also of an insanitary and dilapidated block of cottages near the Black Horse, Northfield. One sample of drinking water analysed and found to be bad and unfit for drinking purposes. Hospital report—13 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 20 discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 38 under treatment. The question of telephonic communication with the general system was brought forward.

For the Month of March.—The Birth-rate was 34·1, Death-rate 12·82, Zymotic Death-rate 0·68. Notifications 26 : Scarlet Fever, 18 ; Diphtheria, 2 ; Typhoid Fever, 3 ; Erysipelas, 3. The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Moseley, King's Heath, Selly Oak, and Selly Park ; the Diphtheria at King's Heath and Rednal. A special inspection of the River Rea was made in company with Mr. A. W. Cross, Engineer and Surveyor ; Mr Spilsbury, Chemist ; Mr. Cottle, Sanitary Inspector ; and Mr. Brown, Foreman, to ascertain to what extent pollution existed and from what source. A number of samples of stream and effluent waters were taken

and submitted to analysis by Mr. Spilsbury. Hospital report—18 cases of Scarlet Fever admitted, 11 cases discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 36 under treatment.

For the Month of April.—The Birth-rate was 26·26, Death-rate 15·0, Zymotic Death-rate 0·6. Notifications 18: Scarlet Fever, 11; Diphtheria, 3; Typhoid Fever, 1; Membraneous Croup, 1; Erysipelas, 2. I made a special visit to Russell Road respecting a nuisance from houses in that road, which were being drained into a field adjoining a stream which emptied into the River Rea, by which it was said to be polluted. Special mention was also made of the insanitary condition of the closets at the King's Norton Board Schools. I also drew attention to the necessity of not allowing houses to be built with a small bedroom at the back with no fireplace or proper flue for ventilation. I found a lot of cottages of this nature with a bedroom only 9ft by 6ft. I stated that no room should be less than 9ft. by 9ft. Hospital report—12 cases of Scarlet Fever have been admitted, 17 have been discharged cured, leaving 35 under treatment, all doing well. Special mention was made of the necessity of providing rooms for bathing the patients before their discharge from the Hospital.

For the Month of May.—The Birth-rate was 25·31, Death-rate 13·59, Zymotic Death-rate 0·3. Notifications 28: Scarlet Fever, 16; Diphtheria, 10; Erysipelas, 2. Special inspection of an alleged insanitary house in Forest Road, Moseley, where Diphtheria had occurred, also of the refuse tip at Mr. Parton's brickyard, King's Heath, which was being used by your Council; also made an investigation respecting a complaint by the King's Norton Metal Company of alleged nuisance arising from the sewage of the Cotteridge passing into their drain. I also inspected Blenheim Terrace, School Road, Moseley, in consequence of its insanitary and dilapidated condition. Hospital report—16 cases of Scarlet Fever have been admitted, 15 discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 40 under treatment.

For the Month of June.—The Birth-rate was 23·8, Death-rate 85·5, Zymotic Death-rate 0·3. Notifications 37: Scarlet Fever, 26; Diphtheria, 9; Typhoid Fever, 2. Special mention was made of the continued prevalence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and the

close relationship to each other, and that should these Diseases continue I should be compelled to close the Schools in those parts of your district chiefly affected. These Diseases were stated not to be epidemic, but persistent, the greater number occurring at Selly Oak, Tenacres, Moseley, King's Heath, and King's Norton. Hospital report—26 cases of Scarlet Fever have been admitted, 21 discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 44 under treatment. Several cases were of a very serious type.

For the Month of July.—The Birth-rate was 35·1, Death-rate 12·9, Zymotic Death-rate 2·3. Notifications 84: Scarlet Fever, 58; Diphtheria, 23; Typhoid Fever, 1; Erysipelas, 2. The Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases occurred, for the most part, at Selly Oak, the other populous parts of the district, however, had a good number of cases. Special mention was made in my Report of the large increase in the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified, and also the increased Zymotic Death-rate. In consequence of the rapid spread of these Diseases the Schools at Selly Oak were closed for a month. Mention was made in the report that Diarrhoea was becoming rather prevalent. Hospital report—55 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 25 discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 77 under treatment. The attention of the Hospital sub-committee was drawn to the defective state of the drainage at the Hospital. 3 samples of drinking water were analysed.

For the Month of August.—The Birth-rate was 31·4, Death-rate 16·8, Zymotic Death-rate 3·1. Notifications 61: Scarlet Fever, 51; Diphtheria, 7; Erysipelas, 3. Attention was drawn to the increased Zymotic Death-rate which, it was explained, was due to the alarming increase in the deaths from Diarrhoea, no less than 11 having occurred during the month, as compared with 2 for the month of July and none previously. It was mentioned that this Disease had become alarmingly prevalent all over the country, and was due to the excessive heat and draught. Satisfaction was expressed that while the Death-rate for your district was only a little more than normal, in Birmingham it rose six or seven times above the average, and this was the case in many of the large centres of population. Hospital report—44 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 18 discharged cured, 2 died, leaving 101 under

treatment. Special attention was drawn to this large number of cases, and that it had been found necessary to open your New Decker as a Convalescent Hospital.

For the Month of September.—The Birth-rate was 29·8, Death-rate 10·4, Zymotic Death rate 1·7. Notifications 43 : Scarlet Fever, 28 ; Diphtheria, 10 ; Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Erysipelas, 3. Attention was drawn to the satisfactory decline in the Death-rates, both General and Zymotic. Mention was made that as the Diseases Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever still continued prevalent, the Schools at Selly Oak were kept closed for a further period of 3 weeks, and they were thoroughly cleansed throughout ; as these Diseases had extended to Tenacres and Stirchley Street, these Schools were also closed. As Measles had broken out in the village of King's Norton and 40 per cent. of the children were absent from School, I caused these Schools also to be closed. 3 samples of well-water were analysed Hospital report—28 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 42 were discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 89 under treatment, as against 101 for the previous month. The attention of the Hospital Sub-Committee was drawn to the defective state of the Heating Apparatus in some parts of the Hospital with a view to its being overhauled and put in order for the approaching winter months. A report on the water supply of the Hospital, by Mr. Spilsbury, was also presented, in which it was stated that the water was of very good quality.

For the Month of October.—The Birth-rate was 32·4, Death-rate 11·8, Zymotic Death-rate 1·4. Notifications 32 : Scarlet Fever, 20 ; Diphtheria, 5 ; Typhoid Fever, 2 ; Erysipelas, 4 ; Puerperal Fever, 1. Mention was made that Measles had extended to the Cotteridge and Stirchley Street, and that the Schools continued closed in those districts. Inspection was specially made of Sycamore Terrace, Vicarage Road, in company with your Surveyor, Mr. Cross, and your Inspector, Mr. Houghton. 2 samples of drinking water were analysed. Hospital report—16 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 36 discharged cured, leaving 57 under treatment, as compared with 89 for the previous month.

For the Month of November.—The Birth-rate was 30·6, Death-rate 13·6, Zymotic Death-rate 0·6. Notifications 19 : Scarlet Fever, 11 ;

Diphtheria, 7 ; Erysipelas, 1 An outbreak of Measles occurred in the village of Northfield, necessitating the closing of the Schools for one month. Mention was made of the great reduction in the number of cases notified, as compared with the past few months. 10 samples of drinking water were analysed. Hospital report—15 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 21 discharged cured, leaving 35 under treatment, as compared with 57 for the previous month. In consequence of the reduction in the number of cases, the Decker Hospital was closed. Special attention was drawn to the necessity of completing the Bathrooms, and also the fencing round the the Isolation block as speedily as possible.

For the Month of December—The Birth-rate was 32·7, Death-rate 12·9, Zymotic Death-rate 1·7. Notifications 35 : Scarlet Fever, 24 ; Diphtheria, 5 Erysipelas, 6. These figures show an increase over last month, but not to any appreciable extent, 3 deaths from Measles occurred, no doubt the increase is due to the Schools having re-opened. Hospital report—23 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, 18 discharged cured, 1 died, leaving 42 under treatment, as compared with 35 last month. Mention was made that 8 of these cases came from outside your district and were admitted as paying patients. One sample of drinking water has been analysed.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

One representation has been made to you during the year, bearing reference to an old block of Cottage Property at Northfield, with the result that, in a very short time, the property will come down.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Supervision is being kept over the Workshops, &c., in your district by your Sanitary Inspectors. Nothing of importance has occurred in this respect during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been visited and kept in proper order.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

One sample has been taken but not condemned.

SANITARY STATE OF THE DISTRICT.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Sanitary condition of your district continues to make satisfactory progress, and as far as the time will allow, you have endeavoured to carry out as much work as could be expected during the year.

I have brought before you many requirements, and in all cases you have given careful and thoughtful consideration to them, and as far as possible, the necessary work required has been put in hand and completed.

In a district like yours, which grows at such a rapid rate, so far as the construction of houses and consequent increase in the population is concerned, there is naturally a constant demand on the resources of the Authority for active work and increased expenditure. I am pleased to say, that even under these exceptional circumstances, you have been able to deal with the work and have risen to the occasion and given directions for all necessary works and improvements to be carried out.

When I mention that your population has increased at the rate of at least 5,000 per annum for several years past, and the number of houses erected have been 1,399 for 1896, and 1,136 for the past year, you will readily see the amount of work necessary to be done in order to cope with the extension. This increase necessitates the opening up of otherwise agricultural land, the making of new roads, widening of others, &c., and this condition of things has been going on at a rapid rate during the past year.

In my last Annual Report I had occasion to mention the defective state of the Sewers in the village of Northfield. Much attention has been paid to this subject and I have made a further inspection in company with your Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. A. W. Cross, and your Assistant Surveyor, Mr. Webb, with a view of coming to some arrangement for their improvement.

As a result a report was prepared and certain recommendations made. We found certain parts of the sewage system imperfect, and the sewage outfall was considered not as good as it was desirable it should be. The works had been constructed for only a small amount of sewage; this amount had of late considerably increased in consequence of the large number of new houses which have been erected during the past few years,

and these have been constructed on the Water Carriage system of sewage disposal, consequently augmenting the outflow to the tanks considerably.

The outcome of these enquiries led the Council to hold a special meeting at Northfield to confer with the principal inhabitants who had complained of the state of the Sewers, &c. You decided, after careful consideration, to adopt a scheme for transferring your Northfield sewage works on to your New Works at Lifford, and to construct additional works of sewage at Northfield. Your Engineer and Surveyor, to remedy existing defects, has prepared plans and a Local Government Board enquiry has been held in reference to this matter, and the necessary works will be undertaken as soon as possible.

In reference to the drainage of this part of your Authority, the district of West Heath has been considered together with the drainage from your Fever Hospital, which has of late occupied your serious consideration, so that I hope this will also be dealt with at the same time. I may say that I have every reason to know that this will be so.

As regards other parts of your district sewer extensions continue to be made as circumstances require, and a considerable amount of this work has been done during the past year. As a proof of the amount of work done in this respect, I am informed by your Surveyor that about 20 miles of Road Sewers have been laid during the past three years, and this is distinct from the house drains which have been of course considerable.

In most of my Reports I have laid great stress on the subject of Ashpits and Privies as being bad domestic contrivances. Continued advance is being made in this respect, as many of them are abolished every year while improvements are made generally.

I consider these receptacles are wrong in every respect. They are more or less offensive always, and I am bound to say are a source of danger to the public health, and the sooner they are done away with altogether the better will it be for the health of the district, more especially in the more populous parts.

I am not unmindful of the value of the principle of "Dry Conservancy," but the difficulty of carrying it out in large centres of population makes it practically an impossibility.

I have for some years advised the adoption of the "Water Carriage" system as being clean, and by its process all sewage is removed from the immediate dwellings of the people, and consequently all offensive smells are practically done away with. Of course it is very essential that all work of this kind should be faithfully and well carried out to ensure that it shall be sanitarily safe.

The question of Refuse collection and disposal is another matter which has occupied my mind for some time past. The practice of "tipping" Privy and Ashpit Refuse on the roadway is fraught with considerable danger to the public health. The Refuse is most offensive and pollutes the atmosphere for a considerable distance, and in warm weather it is a most serious nuisance, and in the most populous parts of your district it is pretty well constant as the emptying of these receptacles is going on very frequently. I consider that the necessity for adopting this mode of collection of Privy and Ashpit Refuse should be sufficient to condemn the system. Where the water closet system is in operation and dry ashpits or dust-tubs are in use, I would advise that some uniformity in the size of these receptacles should be insisted upon so that they could be carried out from the houses and tipped directly into the carts without being deposited in the road at all. I consider this plan would obviate a nuisance which is frequently occurring.

The construction of houses in your district goes on at a very rapid rate, as plans for no less than 1,136 houses have been passed by you during the year, and this rapid rate of building is still going on and, from all appearances, is likely to continue, and from this fact it requires a very watchful eye and close observance to see that the Bye-Laws are faithfully carried out. I am quite satisfied that this matter is being fully considered by your Surveyor, and as far as possible the buildings are kept up to the Bye-Laws.

I have on several occasions mentioned that the Speculative Builder is very busy in your district and that he will want very careful watching in order to secure that we have dwellings erected that will be safe and sanitary for the people, as I know that their object is to get the buildings up as cheaply as they possibly can without any regard to the future. What is wanted for your district is Bye-Laws of a more stringent

nature than we now possess in order to cope with this important matter. I know you have had the question before you for some time, I hope you will soon be able to adopt the New Bye-Laws you have in hand.

In regard to the construction of dwellings, I mentioned in my last Report that Mr. George Cadbury was constructing a number of model dwellings, and that he had laid out land, and was about to make new roads, and that his intention was to make a Model Sanitary Village. I mentioned how pleased I was with the dwellings which had been erected so far, and what a model of sanitation it would prove for your district.

The work has been going on during the year and I can say that I am more than pleased with the way the dwellings are being constructed, and I consider that this part of your district will be a most healthful resort, because it has been commenced and laid out from the beginning on modern sanitary principles. I am therefore glad to mention this in my Annual Report.

From my inspection of some of the houses I consider most of them models of sanitation on account of the arrangement by which light is given and ventilation obtained. I would, however, like to see the sash window more generally adopted.

The question of refuse disposal is one that must very soon engage your serious attention. The practice at present adopted of using "Tips" for the deposit has worked so far satisfactorily, but this is attended with difficulty and not the most sanitary method of dealing with the refuse, and moreover, the ability to provide Tips sufficiently removed from dwellings is not always an easy matter.

I would strongly advise the Council to adopt as soon as possible the mode now in use in some places of destroying and converting all refuse by means of a "Destructor" into harmless material, thus doing away with a serious nuisance, and providing material of a useful character to be used on your roads.

PUBLIC CEMETERIES

The provision of places for the burial of the dead has been a very

great sanitary measure, as many of the burial grounds connected with the churches were rapidly being filled and some of them incapable of taking any more.

Your Lodge Hill Cemetery has proved an excellent site, and has moreover provided a great want for this part of your district. Your wisdom and foresight in carrying this project out has been abundantly proved in more than one respect, and so far as the Northfield parish of your district is concerned, you have made the necessary provision in this respect for very many years to come.

So far as the other side, or parish of King's Norton is concerned, you have purchased some thirty-three acres of land in a very good position, which is now being laid out and in a short time will be ready to receive interments. When this is completed, I have no hesitation in saying that your district is amply provided in this respect, and I must certainly congratulate you on your public spirit in bringing these two schemes to a successful issue.

POLLUTION OF THE RIVER REA.

This subject has been kept under very careful consideration during the year. Special inspections have been made and reports presented to you. Samples of the stream and also the effluents from the works connected with it have been taken and subjected to analysis and the results reported to you.

This question is fully before you and I am quite satisfied that you are fully alive to its importance, and that you will continue to give it due consideration.

It is intended to make further inspections from time to time, and take samples and keep a careful watch over the stream, in order to keep in check as far as possible over the causes of the pollution. We have during the year removed some sources of pollution which existed when I last reported to you.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been made during the year, except as to smoke nuisance and the pollution of the River Rea, and these matters have been fully discussed by you and directions given with a view to their abatement.

WATER SUPPLY.

I have analysed 34 samples of well-water, 29 of which have been condemned as unfit for drinking purposes and 5 fair. The details of these will be found in a Table appended to the Report.

As regards the subject of Water Supply, you will observe from the foregoing figures that well-waters are not reliable, and in all cases where the water is found unfit for domestic use the Corporation of Birmingham supply is laid on, and this supply is available for the more populous parts of your district. In the Bartley Green district you have constructed a public well to supply that part, and this is being laid on where the supply is not adequate or not of good quality. I analysed this water and found it good and fit for domestic purposes, and this provision will provide a great want which has hitherto existed, as the source of water supply in this locality hitherto has been from shallow wells close to the dwellings of the people, and which, on analysis, was found in most instances bad.

In consequence of the Maidstone Epidemic of Typhoid Fever, the Council directed (that, as the question of water from a public source was important, and that reliable information as to its purity should be ascertained), that a special analysis should be made, and accordingly Mr. Spilsbury, F.I.C., was directed to make such analysis, with the result that he pronounced the water as excellent.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

During the year 306 cases of Scarlet Fever have been admitted, as compared with 288 for last year. We have had no Small Pox cases to deal with at all.

Of the cases admitted 22 came from outside your district as follows: Hopwood 1, Bromsgrove 1, Quinton 4, Alvechurch 3, Smethwick 1, Redditch 2, Bentley 2, Clent 2, Tardebigge 4, Halesowen 1, Weatheroak Hill 1. Of the cases admitted we have to record 9 deaths, which represents a percentage of 3·3. Although this is larger than last year it is a very low rate of mortality, and when taken into consideration that the type of the malady has been more severe, some of the cases dying shortly after admission, the results may be considered very favourable.

The particulars of the cases admitted will be found in the following table.

WEST HEATH HOSPITAL RETURNS.—1897.

1897	Outside Districts.																TOTAL															
	Selly Oak	Selly Park	Stirchley Street	Moseley	King's Heath	Tenacres	King's Norton	Northfield	Cottredge	Bartley Green	Hospital	Convalescent Home, Moseley Hall	Merrett's Brook	Rednal	California	Workhouse	Holly Wood	Griffen's Brook	Beoley	Hopwood	Bromsgrove	Quinton	Weatheroak Hill	Alvechurch	Smethwick	Redditch	Upper Bentley	Clent	Tardebigge	Halesowen		
Jan.	3	..	4	..	2	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	
Feb.	10	1	2	..	4	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	
Mar.	5	1	1	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	
Apl.	4	..	3	..	1	..	2	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	
May	3	..	4	4	2	..	3	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	
June	9	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	
July	32	1	6	..	1	3	..	2	7	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	60	
Aug.	13	..	11	..	5	2	3	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	
Sep.	10	1	..	..	8	2	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	
Oct.	6	1	2	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	18	
Nov.	2	..	2	1	8	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	23	
Dec.	7	..	1	1	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	19	
Total	104	5	36	11	38	13	16	18	21	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	6	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	3	1	2	2	2	4	1	306

I am again pleased to be able to report such excellent results of the work of your Hospital.

The large number of cases admitted, out of the total number reported, speaks volumes for the appreciation of the public, as to the advantages of the Institution.

I have made a special point, for some years of endeavouring to educate the public on the advantages of isolation, and I am glad to say we meet with very few cases, who decline to avail themselves of it, and these are generally of the well to do class, who can afford to have a nurse, and have plenty of accommodation at their own house. The people of the artisan class, without exception, all go into the Hospital.

The addition of the wing for the accommodation of the nurses, has proved a very great advantage, as also the porter's lodge.

I have met your Hospital Sub-Committee from time to time, and conferred with them on all matters concerning the Institution. I have brought forward the question of additional bathing-out rooms, before the patients are discharged, and also the question of improving the heating apparatus. The question of the defective drainage has also been fully before them, and, I have no doubt will soon be remedied. As far as the bath-rooms are concerned, these are in course of construction, and the heating apparatus has also been improved, and will soon be in good and efficient working order.

Telephonic communication has also been established with the general system as distinct from the partial system previously in use.

I am pleased to say that the work in connection with the Hospital has been very satisfactory during the past year.

SANITARY WORK.

As regards this subject, you will see from the returns of the Sanitary Inspectors, that an immense amount of work has been done, and also from my preceeding remarks in this Report.

I wish to add that the Sanitary Inspectors have performed their duties satisfactorily.

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

You will see from the Report appended that 1136 plans have been passed, and moreover that an enormous amount of work has been done in the matter of sewerage, road making, &c. A great deal of important work is still going on, and will continue, while the population increases at the rate it does.

In concluding this Report, I wish to thank the Council for their uniform courtesy and co-operation, and also to congratulate them on the valuable work accomplished during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS HOLLINSHEAD, M D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DEATHS REGISTERED FROM ALL CAUSES DURING THE YEAR 1897

		AGES.																				Totals.	55 to 60			
		0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and upwards.														
I.	Specific Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases	18	8	10	16	6	4	1	1	3	2											37	32	1		
II.	Parasitic Diseases																									
III.	Dietic Diseases		1																					1		
IV.	Constitutional Diseases		5	6	6	2	6	6	6	7	12	10	7	6	5	3	6	8	2	3				54	60	2
V.	Developmental Diseases		9	10											1	2	8	9	13	21	4	5	35	47	2	
VI.	Local Diseases		47	20	7	7	8	2	6	3	6	11	12	11	18	14	30	18	28	27	11	17	1	174	130	14
VII.	Deaths from Violence			2	1	2									3	1		3		2				11	6	1
VIII.	Deaths from III-Defined and not Specified Causes		30	18	3						2										1		1	32	24	
TOTALS		106	64	24	34	17	12	13	12	12	21	31	21	26	20	39	21	44	44	26	42	5	6	343	300	18

		AGES.																							
5.—DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.		0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and upwards.	Totals.	5 to 60											
Brought up		32	16	7	4	5	1	4	1	4	7	10	8	16	10	23	23	8	13	1	13310	13	5		
Dentition		...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...		
Sore Throat, Quinsy		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Diseases of Stomach		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Enteritis		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...		
Obstructive Diseases of Intestine		12	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	14	4	...		
Peritonitis		...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	1		
Ascites		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...		
Cirrhosis of Liver		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...		
Jaundice and other Diseases of Liver		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Other Diseases of Digestive System		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1		
		15	3	3	2	1	1	...	...	1	3	4	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	26	13	...	...		
6.—DISEASES OF LYMPHATIC SYSTEM.																									
(e.g., of Lymphatics and of Spleen)		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...			
7.—DISEASES OF GLAND-LIKE ORGANS OF UNCERTAIN USE.																									
(e.g., Bronchocele, Addison's Disease)		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
8.—DISEASES OF URINARY SYSTEM.																									
Nephritis		...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...		
Bright's Disease, Albuminuria		...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	5	5	...		
Disease of Bladder or of Prostate		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	...			
Other Diseases of the Urinary System		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
		...	...	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	...	...	...	14	7	...	...		
9.—DISEASES OF REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM.																									
A. Of Organs of Generation.																									
Male Organs		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Female Organs		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...		
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...			
B. Of Parturition.																									
Abortion, Miscarriage		...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...		
Puerperal Convulsions		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Placenta previa, Flooding		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Other Accidents of Child Birth..		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
		...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...		
10.—DISEASES OF BONES AND JOINTS.																									
Caries, Necrosis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...		
Arthritis, Osteitis, Periostitis		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Other Diseases of Bones and Joints		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
11.—DISEASES OF INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM.																									
Carbuncle, Phlegmon		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Other Diseases of Integumentary System		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
		47	20	7	7	8	2	6	3	6	11	12	11	18	14	30	18	23	27	11	17	1	174130	14	6
VII.—Deaths from Violence.																									
1.—ACCIDENT OR NEGLIGENCE.																									
Fractures and Contusions		...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...		
Cut, Stab		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Burn, Scald		...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...		
Poison		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Drowning		...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...		
Suffocation		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Otherwise		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1		
		2	1	2	1	...	...	2	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	1	...		
2.—HOMICIDE.																									
Manslaughter		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Murder		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
3.—SUICIDE.																									
Gunshot Wounds		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Cut, Stab		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Poison		...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...		
Drowning		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Hanging		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Otherwise		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
		2	1	2	1	...	2	...	3	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	6	1	...		
4.—EXECUTION.																									
Hanging		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
VIII.—Deaths from Ill-defined and not Specified Causes.																									
Dropsy		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Debility, Atrophy, Inanition		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Nurification		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Tumour		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Abscess		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Hæmorrhage		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...		
Sudden Death (cause not ascertained)		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Cases not Specified or Ill-defined		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Hernia		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...		
Appendicitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Influenza		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Ladacious Disease, Asthina		...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
		30	15	3	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	32	24	...	...		

	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths.		No. of Deaths.
I.—Specific Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases.			<i>Brought forward</i> ...	502
1. Miasmatic Diseases	49		VI.—Local Diseases —continued	
1a. Influenza	1		5. Diseases of Digestive System ...	39
2. Diarrhoeal „	16		6. Diseases of Lymphatic System ...	2
3. Malarial „	...		7. Diseases of Cland-like Organs of Uncertain Use ...	...
4. Zoogenous „	...		8. Diseases of Urinary Organs ...	19
5. Venereal „	...		9. Diseases of Reproductive System ...	...
6. Septic „	4		(a). Diseases of Organs of Generation ...	2
II.—Parasitic Diseases.	...		(b). Diseases of Parturition ...	5
III.—Dietic Diseases. „	1		10. Diseases of Bones and Joints ...	2
IV.—Constitutional Diseases.	114		11. Diseases of Integumentary System ...	...
V.—Developmental Diseases.	82		VII.—Violence.	
VI.—Local Diseases.			1. Accident or Negligence	13
1. Diseases of Nervous System ..	68		2. Homicide	...
2. Diseases of Organs of Special Sense ...	...		3. Suicide	4
3. Diseases of Circulatory System ..	64		4. Execution	...
4. Diseases of Respiratory System ...	103		VIII.—Ill-defined and not Specified Causes	55
<i>Carried forward</i>	502		TOTAL ...	643

TABLE I.
ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1897.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KING'S NORTON.

Area in acres	...	21,636.	Population, 1881	...	19,376.
			1891	...	28,300.
			Increase 1881-91	...	8,924.
			Estimated Population, 1897	...	42,700.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ... FRANCIS HOLLINSHEAD, M.D.

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

	Measles	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not "spasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	CONTINUED FEVERS.			Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Cancer.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.
						Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.													
...	12	11	12	...	13	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	48	47	50	64	15	333

REGISTERED BIRTHS.			REGISTERED DEATHS.			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
619	530	1149	343	300	643	170	58	29	25	194	167

(A)

TABLE VII.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Rural District Council of KING'S NORTON, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	(i)	Smallpox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Group. 4	FEVERS.						Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	Measles. 12	Whooping Cough. 13	Diarrhoea and 14	Dysentery. 15	Rheumatic Fever. 16	Phthisis 17	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. 18	Heart Disease. 19	Injuries. 20	All Other Diseases. 21	TOTAL. 22	
													Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued. 7	Relapsing. 8	Puerperal. 9															
NORTHFIELD PARISH	227	87	23	16	7	49	45	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	1 6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1 1	5	11	...	...	1 19	26 15	1 10	...	4 6	60 59	110 117
KING'S NORTON PARISH.....	247	67	24	12	11	79	54	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	2 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	5	...	...	12 15	...	...	2 3	53 88	91 156	
BEOLEY PARISH	6	2	...	...	...	1	3	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2 2	2 4	
KING'S NORTON UNION WORKHOUSE	102	13	3	...	5	31	50	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	6	2 8	...	...	12 56	16 86	
RURERY HILL ASYLUM.....	49	...	...	...	1	33	15	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	19	...	20	49	
ST. PAUL'S CONVENT.....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
WEST HEATH FEVER HOSPITAL (Rural District Council of King's Norton)	9	1	7	...	1	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	8 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 1	
MOSELEY HALL CONVALESCENT HOME	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1 1		
								Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								Under 5 5 upwds.	...	9 2	3 9	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	11 1	13	16	...	...	1 47	40 57	1 63	...	6 9	128 226	228 415
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																																
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	4	1	2	1	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	3 1	

The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of Influenza, or any other disease which it may be thought desirable to record.

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1897, in the Rural District Council of KING'S NORTON, classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

[illegible]

Mortality per 1,000 of Population living during same period,

Birth Rate 26.9	Death Rate 12.17	(a) Zymotic Death Rate 1.4	(b) Inf. Mortal 147.	Phthisis Death Rate 1.12
Resp. Death Rate 2.27	Smallpox Death Rate, 0.0	Measles Death Rate 0.28	Scarlatina Death Rate 0.25	
Diphtheria Death Rate 0.28	Whooping Cough Death Rate 0.3	(c) Fever Death Rate 0.02	Diarrhoea Death Rate 0.37	
Cancer Death Rate 0.49				

(a) Includes Smallpox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever and Diarrhoea
(b) Estimated by measuring the proportion of deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 of the births registered during the same period.
(c) Including Typhus, Enteric Fever, and indefinite forms of continued Fever.

	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever
Cases ...	...	285	312	93		15	41	2
Deaths ...	...	12	11	12	...	1	...	...
Hospital Cases* ...	...	...	306	...	...	...	...	...
„ Deaths ...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...

*Twenty-one cases admitted from outside district.

Diseases prevalent—Searlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles and Whooping Cough. Period—January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December.
Schools closed—August. September, October, and November.
Measles not notified, but cases recorded came to my knowledge.

TABLE IA.

Showing the Population, Inhabited Houses, Marriages, Births and Deaths for the Year 1897, and 10 years preceding.

GROSS NUMBERS.

The Year.	Population.	No. of Inhabited Houses.	Marriages.	Registered Births.	Corrected No. of Deaths.			Deaths in Public Institutions.
					Total All Ages.	Under One Year.	Under Five Years	
1897	42,700	11,055	237	1,149	643	170	228	163
1896	38,117	9,919	259	1,031	541	122	178	102
1895	34,127	8,520	172	1,010	499	107	153	120
1894	30,977	8,070	173	785	442	90	124	141
1893	29,884	7,537	151	834	537	114	141	117
1892	28,562	7,262	168	837	474	91	121	117
1891	28,300	7,009	147	735	427	81	104	107
1890	28,396	6,442	157	657	419	79	116	93
1889	26,367	6,030		642	358	57	89	102
1888	25,392	5,698		649	365	70	105	92
1887	24,453	5,386		648	380	66	104	84
Average of 10 years, 1887-96	29,657·5	7,187·3		782·8	444·2	87·7	123·5	107·5

NOTES.

1. Population at Census, 1891.—28,300.
2. Average No. of Persons in each house at Census, 1891.—4·03.
3. Area of District in acres.—21,636.

TABLE II.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1897.

Systematic Inspection	Regularly carried out.
House accommodation	Quite sufficient.
Overcrowding	Six cases abated.
Drainage	Continues to be extended in various parts of the district. The village of King's Norton is now completed, also the Cotteridge.
Water supply	Provided for Bartley Green, and the Lickey 30 samples have been analysed, and tap water laid on in all cases where the supply can be obtained and the wells proved to be polluted. Water Mains continue to be extended in the district.
Excrement disposal	To Board's tips.
Scavenging	Carried out by the District Council.
Burial Grounds and Mortuaries	Two new Burial Grounds provided, and Mortuary to be built.
Canal Boats	Sanitary Inspectors appointed.
Bakehouses	Visited and kept in order.
Slaughter-houses... ..	Inspected.
Common Lodging Houses	None.
Tenement Lodging Houses	None.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	Surveyor appointed, and Inspectors as assistants
Offensive Trades... ..	No complaints, except as to Smoke, and pollution of River Rea.
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	One sample taken, not condemned.
Food unfit for Human Consumption	No case.
Bye-Laws... ..	For new Streets and Buildings, Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter-houses, Hackney Carriages, Nuisances, Footpaths and Pavements, Scavenging, &c.
River Pollution	The River Rea ; receiving due consideration ; L. G. B. enquiry held, and Injunction obtained.
Industries	Two Paper Works, Cocoa Manufactory, Brewery, several Metal Works, small Tannery, one Enamel Works, and Cycle Components Works, and one Tin Printing.
Vans and Tents	Inspected when in district
Fruit Pickers	None.
Dept. of Insp. of Nuisances	No. of Notices served and Letters written—2915. ,, Legal Proceedings taken—1.
Special Reports of M. O. H. during the year	Two. One on Northfield Sewers, and one on Hospital.
Vaccination Acts	Carried out as well as possible ; statistics given.
Other points	

TABLE IIa.

Table showing the Annual Birth and Death Rates, Death Rates of Children, and Proportion of Deaths in Public Institutions in a Thousand Deaths for the year 1897, and 10 Years preceding.

IN THE YEAR.	Birth Rate per 1000 of the Population.	Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of the Population.	Deaths of Children under 1 year; per 1000 of Registered Births.	Deaths of Children under 1 year; per 1000 of Total Deaths.	Deaths of Children under 5 years; per 1000 of Total Deaths.	Deaths in Public Institutions; per 1000 of Total Deaths.
1897.	26·90	12·17	147·95	248·83	354·58	253·49
1896.	27·04	11·51	118·33	225·50	326·03	188·53
1895.	29·59	12·27	105·9	214·4	306·6	240·5
1894.	25·34	10·87	114·0	203·61	280·54	319·0
1893.	27·90	15·35	136·0	212·29	263·1	217·85
1892.	30·70	12·52	108·72	192·00	257·23	246·79
1891.	25·97	12·36	110·20	189·69	243·53	250·58
1890.	23·13	12·04	120·24	188·54	253·00	221·95
1889.	24·34	10·61	88·7	159·2	270·90	284·91
1888.	25·18	10·23	107·8	194·5	295·9	252·05
1887.	26·49	12·71	101·8	173·6	221·0	221·05
Average of 10 years. 1887—1896.)	26·56	12·04	111·16	195·33	271·78	244·32

TABLE IIIA.—VITAL STATISTICS.

	Average for the Years 1888 to 1897 in- clusive.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889	1888.
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the popu- lation	26·60	26·90	27·04	29·56	25·34	27·90	30·70	25·97	23·13	24·34	25·18
Total Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	11·99	12·17	11·51	12·27	10·87	15·35	12·52	12·36	12·04	10·61	10·23
Death Rate from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 of the population	0·83	1·4	1·1	0·8	0·6	0·97	0·7	0·77	0·73	0·7	0·55
Rate of Infant Mortality estimated by measuring the proportion of Children who died before Attaining 1 Year per 1,000 of the Births Registered during the same period	115·78	147·95	118·33	105·9	114·0	136·	108·72	110·20	120·24	88·7	107·8

TABLE IV.

Showing the Number of Deaths at all ages in 1897, from certain groups of Diseases, and proportions to 1000 population, and to 1000 Deaths from all causes; also the Number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age from other groups of Diseases, and proportions to 1000 Births and to 1000 Deaths from all causes under one year.

DIVISION I. (Adults).			Total Deaths.	Deaths per 1000 of Population, at all ages.	Deaths per 1000 of Total Deaths at all ages.
1.	Principal Zymotic Diseases ...	...	65	1.52	101.08
2.	Pulmonary Diseases ...	...	97	2.27	159.85
3.	Principal Tubercular Diseases	..	80	1.87	124.41
DIVISION II (Infants under One Year).			Total Deaths.	Deaths per 1000 of Births.	Deaths per 1000 of Total Deaths under One Year.
4.	Wasting Diseases ...	...	68	59.18	400.00
5.	Convulsive Diseases ...	...	19	16.53	111.79

The Zymotic Rate in this Table is calculated with Public Institutions

NOTICE.

1. Includes Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Typhus, Enteric (or Typhoid), and Simple Continued Fevers, and Diarrhœa.
3. Includes Phthisis, Scrofula, Tuberculosis, Rickets, and Tabes.
4. Includes Marasmus, Atrophy, Debility, Want of Breast Milk, and Premature Birth.
5. Includes Hydrocephalus, Infantile Meningitis, Convulsions, and Teething.

TABLE V.

Showing the Number of Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases in the 10 Years 1888 to 1897, and in the Year 1897.

Disease.	1883.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Annual Aver- age of 10 years, 1888-1897.	Proportion of Deaths to 1000 Deaths in 10 years, 1888-1897.	Total Deaths in 1897.	Proportion of Deaths to 1000 Deaths in 1897.
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	..	...	...	0.5	1.12	...	0.0
Measles ...	1	3	3	2	...	1	9	1	7	12	3.9	8.78	12	18.66
Scarlet Fever ...	...	4	6	3	1	3	2	5	5	11	4.0	9.00	11	17.10
Diphtheria ...	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	10	16	12	5.6	12.61	12	18.66
Whooping Cough ..	10	3	2	6	13	7	5	12	13	13	8.4	18.91	13	20.21
Fever { Typhus Enteric Simple con- tinued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	4	2	1	2	4	...	...	3	1	1.7	3.82	1	1.55
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	1	1	...	6	2	12	1	2	...	16	4.1	9.23	16	...
Totals ...	14	19	15	23	20	29	23	30	44	65	28.2	63.47	65	76.18

TABLE VI.

Samples of Water analysed during 1897, with results.

NO.	DATE.	LOCALITY.	RESULTS.
1	Jan. 1	71, Hazelwell Street, Stirchley	Bad
2	,, 21	Congreve Road, Cotteridge	Bad
3	Feb. 13	Clarence Villas, Northfield, Mr. Hodgetts	Bad
4	,, 20	School Road, Tenacres, Mr. Green	Fair
5	Ap. 25	Highter's Heath Farm, Mr. Marlow	Bad
6	May 19	Mass House Farm, King's Norton, Pelham Lane, Esq.	Bad
7	,, 19	Mass House Lane ,, ,, Mr. Horton's	Bad
1	,, 19	,, ,, ,, ,, Mr. Bluck's	Bad
9	June 3	Old Square, King's Norton, Mr. J. Hands	Bad
10	,, 3	The Green, ,, ,, Mr. Gateley's	Bad
11	,, 3	,, ,, ,, ,, Mr. Clulee's	Bad
12	July 9	Legg's Farm, Dadd's Lane, Austin Chamberlain, Esq.	Bad
13	,, 9	38, &c., Avenue Road, Mr. Forester's	Bad
14	,, 9	42, &c., ,, ,, Mr. Shard's	Bad
15	,, 9	46, &c., ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	Bad
16	,, 20	1 & 2, Park Place, Pershore Road, Mr. Greatorex's	Bad
17	,, 23	School Road, Tenacres, (2nd Sample) Mr. Green's	Bad
18	Aug. 25	Poplar Road, Mr. Lewis's	Bad
19	,, 25	King's Heath Place, Alcester Road, Mr. Aldington's	Bad
20	,, 25	Victoria Place, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	Bad
21	,, 26	Mass House Farm, (2nd Sample) Pelham Lane, Esq.	Bad
22	Sep. 23	12, Avenue Road, Mr. Molesworth's	Bad
23	,, 23	Poplar Road King's Heath, Mr. Cox's	Bad
24	Oct. 21	Impey's Farm, Holly Wood	Bad
25	,, 16	Hazelwell Street, Stirchley, Mr. Ball's	Fair
26	,, 20	Selly Grove, Selly Hill, Mr. Thompson's	Bad
27	,, 20	Garnet & Wellesley Villas, Oak Tree Lane, Mr. Bloomer's	Bad
28	,, 20	Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Mr. Higgins'	Bad
29	,, 26	12, Avenue Road, King's Heath, (2nd Sample) Mr. Molesworth	Bad
30	,, 26	Upper Inkford Farm, Mrs. Lloyd's	Fair
31	,, 26	Two Cottages, Lower Inkford Farm, Mrs. Lloyd's	Fair
32	,, 26	Highfield Villa, Alcester Road, Mr. Parton's	Bad
33	,, 28	Poplar Road, King's Heath, Mr. Cox's	Bad
34	,, 28	Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak	Fair

SURVEYOR'S REPORT ON BUILDINGS, &c

Year ending 31st December, 1897.

MOSELEY WARD :

73 Houses,

1 Lecture Hall

NORTHFIELD WARD .

150 Houses.

KING'S HEATH WARD :

277 Houses,

1 School.

SEELY OAK WARD :

284 Houses,

3 Schools.

KING'S NORTON WARD :

178 Houses.

STIRCHLEY WARD :

174 Houses,

1 School.

IN WHOLE OF DISTRICT :

1136 Houses.

5 Schools.

1 Addition to Church.

4 Bakehouses.

1 Lecture Hall.

5 Warehouses.

20 Stables.

70 Alterations.

25 Sundries.

AMBROSE W. CROSS, C.E.,

Engineer and Surveyor.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN
THE No. 1, OR MOSELEY DIVISION, KING'S NORTON R.D.C.,
During the Year ending 31st December, 1897.

Prevention of Infectious Diseases	Number of cases enquired into	142
	Number of houses disinfected and cleansed	122
	Number of patients removed to Hospital ...	89
Houses	Number cleansed, lime-washed and repaired	75
House Drains	Number laid or re-laid	62
	Number cleansed, trapped and ventilated ...	147
	Number of defective waste-pipes rectified ...	102
	Number of insanitary sinks, lavatories, &c. rectified	23
Water-closets	Number of additional w.c.'s provided ...	15
	Number repaired, ventilated, &c.	70
Privies and Ash-pits ...	Number of privies converted to w.c.'s ...	69
	Number of privies converted to pail closets	12
	Number repaired	13
Scavenging	Total number of houses from which refuse is removed	5333
	Total number of privies and ash-pits cleansed	3087
	Total number of portable receptacles cleansed	88406
Dust Receptacles (port.)	Number of new dust receptacles provided...	156
Sinoke Nuisances ...	Number under observation	11
	Number abated	1
Water Supply	Number of wells cleansed and repaired ...	6
	Number of wells closed as polluted ...	6
	Number of houses supplied from waterworks	27
	Number of samples of water taken for analysis	21
Slaughter Houses ...	Number registered or licensed	11
	Number regularly inspected	11
	Number cleansed and repaired	11
Workshops	Number under inspection	69
Dairies and Cowsheds...	Number of registered cow-keepers, dairymen, and purveyors	122

INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR No. 1, OR MOSELEY
DIVISION, 1897.—*continued.*

Canal Boats	Number of boats inspected	25
Nuisances (Keeping of Animals	Number abated	6
Offensive Accumulations (Refuse)	Number removed	100
Clerical Work	Official letters and notices written	1455
Legal Proceedings	Number taken	1
	Number of convictions obtained	1
Complaints	Number received and attended to	21
Game Dealers	Number licensed	6
Petroleum Stores	Number licensed	2
Hackney Carriages	Under supervision	38

JOHN HOUGHTON,

Certificated Engineer and Surveyor,

Member Sanitary Institute,

SANITARY INSPECTOR

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KING'S NORTON.

No. 2 DISTRICT.

Report of Sanitary Work completed in the Year ending 31st December, 1897.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease enquired into	...	...	...	177
Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	...	...	...	151
Patients removed to Hospital	...	...	...	153
lots of Bedding, Clothing, &c. Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	1
Houses or Premises visited for special purposes	...	...	...	1750
house-to-house inspection	...	...	...	1613
Houses Cleansed and Lime-washed	...	...	...	195
cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	6
Drains tested	...	...	...	30
House Drains laid or re-laid	...	...	...	69
House Drains cleansed, trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	189
defective Waste-pipes remedied	...	...	...	56
Dumb-wells rectified	...	...	...	2
additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	4
Water Closets repaired, ventilated, and supplied with flush-	...	...	...	143
cisterns	...	...	...	1
additional Privies and Ash-pits provided	...	...	...	31
Privies converted into Water-closets or Slop-closets	...	...	...	57
Privies and Ash-pits repaired	...	...	...	70
new portable Dust Receptacles provided	...	...	...	1181
houses from which refuse removable	...	...	...	5951
Privies and Ash-pits Cleansed	...	...	...	29394
Portable Receptacles Cleansed	...	...	...	2376
Loads of Ashes and Excrement removed	...	...	...	2048
Loads of Ashes and Refuse removed	...	...	...	23
Smoke Nuisances under observation	...	...	...	9
New Houses certified to have proper water-supply	...	...	...	1
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	20
Wells closed as polluted	...	...	...	13
Houses supplied from Water-works during the year	...	...	...	82
Workshops visited	...	...	...	...
Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops visited, 65; registered, 18	...	...	...	49
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses visited, 34; licenses issued, 3	...	...	...	42
Food and Drug Shops visited	...	...	...	...
samples of Food and Drugs taken for analysis, 1; condemned, 0	...	...	...	9
Piggeries, Stables, &c., inspected	...	...	...	208
removals of accumulations of offensive refuse	...	...	...	15
Pollution of Rivers inspection	...	...	...	17
Samples of Effluent, Mud, &c., taken	...	...	...	31
Hackney Carriages inspected	...	...	...	2
Game Dealers' Licenses issued	...	...	...	2
Pawnbrokers' "	...	...	...	3
Petroleum Stores "	...	...	...	...
Consultations with Clerk, 13; M.O.H., 95; Surveyor, 10	...	...	...	...
" Builders and others, <i>Re</i> Abatement of	...	...	...	147
Nuisances, &c.	...	...	...	257
Official Reports written	...	...	...	44
Complaints received and attended to	...	...	...	1462
Letters, &c., written	...	...	...	348
Notices outstanding, Complied with	...	...	...	344
Notices served	...	...	...	4
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...
Deaf or Blind Children attending school, fees collected fortnightly from Parents	...	...	...	12

SELLY OAK,

17th January, 1898.

ARTHUR T. COTTLE.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.